

of wave energy, mitigating some of the most costly aspects of severe storms. Coastal storms account for 71% of annual disaster losses. Healthy reef systems may protect an estimated \$47,000 of property value for every meter of reef during severe weather events.

Today, however, various pressures on the world's reefs threaten to destroy them and the numerous ecosystem services, valued at over \$8 billion, which they provide. Unless the United States acts in conjunction with the global community to support focused, prolonged action on coral reef education, research, and management, the condition of our coral reefs will continue to degrade.

Since its enactment in 2000, the Coral Reef Conservation Act has stimulated a greater commitment to protect, conserve, and restore coral reef resources within jurisdictional waters of the United States. As a result, we now have a much better grasp of the condition of our coral reefs, and more focused management capability than at any time in our history. The Coral Reef Conservation Act Reauthorization and Enhancement Amendments of 2016 expands emergency response mechanisms, establishes a new community-based planning grants program, promotes international cooperation, and recognizes the important contributions of the U.S. Department of the Interior in coral reef management and conservation efforts.

This bill would also codify the United States Coral Reef Task Force established in 1998 by President Clinton through Executive Order 13089. The work of the Task Force and its mission to coordinate the efforts of the United States in promoting conservation and the sustainable use of coral reefs internationally is vital to our interests. Since 1998, the Task Force has acted to facilitate and support better management and conservation of coral reef resources at the local level. Many beneficial efforts, such as the development and implementation of local action strategies to address threats to our reefs, are underway thanks to the work of the Task Force and its member agencies.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to advance this legislation to enhance our capacity for the conservation and restoration of healthy and diverse coral reef ecosystems.

CONGRESSWOMAN DINGELL CALLS FOR ACTION ON THE NATION'S MOST PRESSING CHALLENGES

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the House of Representatives prepares to leave Washington for seven weeks—52 days—without addressing some of the most critical issues we face.

Instead of working together—Republicans and Democrats—toward meaningful solutions to protect the American people, Congress spent this week debating a bunch of bills that will never become law.

Meanwhile, we have failed to meaningfully respond to the Flint water crisis, which has left families in my home state of Michigan reeling for months.

We have failed to provide critical resources to respond to the Zika health crisis.

And we have failed to come together around reasonable solutions to the gun violence epidemic plaguing this country.

I am embarrassed to be a Member of this body.

We need to do the job the American people elected us to do.

We need to come together to find solutions to the biggest problems we face.

That's what we were sent here to do. That's what the American people expect and it's what they deserve.

Let's do our job.

RECOGNIZING 2016 "PAUL BUNYAN SERVICE ABOVE SELF" AWARD" WINNER CLARE JANTY

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you today to recognize Ms. Clare Janty of Cumberland, Wisconsin for her unprecedented dedication in serving our community.

Ms. Janty is the recipient of the Wisconsin 7th Congressional District's 2016 "Paul Bunyan Service Above Self Award," which recognizes a constituent who goes above and beyond when serving their community.

Ms. Janty has served as a Physician Assistant for over 35 years in Barron County, and continues to give back to her community through her work in healthcare and wellness.

In 2004 she was a founding board member of Pink Ribbon Advocacy Inc.—a non-profit focused on supporting uninsured expenses related to breast gynecological cancers—and has served as their medical advisor since. Ms. Janty is also the president of the board of the Rice Lake Area Free Clinic, and routinely provides patient services.

Ms. Janty has offered her skills by successfully co-authoring several grant applications that have helped provide the needed funds for poverty and health care organizations in Barron County. In addition, she has worked with local law enforcement to create a Children's Safety Fair. She has been a member of the Healthier Cumberland Project—a non-profit organization focused on community health—since 2007. Ms. Janty also regularly visits local schools to provide youth with personal health and safety information.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing and thanking Ms. Janty for her exceptional service to her community.

HONORING MIO HYDRO FOR 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize 100 years of service from the Mio Hydro facility, named after the adjacent town of Mio and located on the lower Au Sable River. During that time it has provided reliable

power to thousands of families and businesses in Oscoda County, Michigan.

In the early 1900's, Consumers Energy founders, William A. and James B. Foote sought out to harness the energy of the Au Sable River to power the mills and growing cities of the surrounding area. Between 1911 and 1924, six hydroelectric dams were constructed.

Mio Hydro was the fourth dam constructed and was completed in 1916. This facility was unique in that it was the first hydroelectric dam to utilize an under-sluice spillway. Invented and patented by Consumers civil engineer, William W. Tefft, the design allows excess water to flow through conduits built into the foundation of the powerhouse instead of through an above ground gated spillway. This new design was proven to lower construction costs and increased the plant's power production.

This year I am pleased to join all the Consumers Energy employees and retirees to commemorate 100 years of clean, reliable and renewable energy generated by this facility. A century of service is a testament to the dedicated men and women that have kept watch over Mio and supplied power to generations of Michiganders.

Congratulations on this great achievement.

COMMEMORATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF WILLIAM EDWARD BONTEMPS

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commemorate William Edward Bontemps on his recent retirement from Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois, Inc.

Bill Bontemps was born and raised in West Peoria and is known for his active role in the community, his service to our country during the Vietnam War, and his successful career at Goodwill Industries. Bill graduated from Peoria High School and earned a Bachelor of Science in business from Bradley University. After college, Bill served in the U.S. Army infantry in Vietnam and later served as a combat photographer for the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry. In recognition of his service to the United States, Bill was honored with the Purple Heart, National Defense Service Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Following his decorated military career, Bill continued to serve others by becoming the Director of Vocational Services for Goodwill Industries in 2009. In his role with Goodwill, he supported various programs including Goodwill's Veteran Employment Services, Youth Services, job preparation and employment programs, and the General Wayne A. Downing Veteran's Home. Bill used his marketing background and photography skills learned in the military to promote these programs by assisting in the creation of flyers, signs, brochures, and calendars. His service to the community extended beyond Goodwill, as he served on the Board for the Continuum of Care and Senator Kirk's Veterans Advisory Board.